



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REPORT OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD COMMISSION, 1938

LETTER  MAR 18 1939 
U. S. Department of Agriculture
FROM

THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

TRANSMITTING

A REPORT OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1938

JANUARY 20, 1939.—Referred to the Committee on Agriculture and order to be
printed

MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION,
Washington, D. C., January 17, 1939.

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SIR: In accordance with the provisions of section 3 of the act of Congress approved February 18, 1929 (45 Stat. 1222; U. S. Code, Supp., ch. 7a), I present herewith report of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1938.

Respectfully,

H. A. WALLACE,
Secretary of Agriculture,
Chairman of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.

REPORT OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR
THE FISCAL YEAR 1938

Activities under the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act during the period covered by this report were significant not so much by reason of extensive acreages of lands acquired by the Bureau of Biological Survey for national wildlife refuges as of the rather intensive buying program carried on for consolidating refuges already established. Land has been bought in 42 units, the purchases ranging in size from less than 1 acre to 138,987 acres, chiefly to round out previous purchases made either by the Biological Survey with funds

appropriated under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act and with funds made available from emergency appropriations, or purchases by the Resettlement Administration for the Bureau.

All of the projects for which lands were bought during the year affected refuges previously acquired with the regular, emergency, and Resettlement funds referred to, or already established by Executive order from the public domains. In addition, seven new refuges were established by reservation of the public domain by Executive orders.

ACQUISITION IN OTHER YEARS

As in its previous annual reports, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission considers it appropriate again to review the accomplishments in establishing national wildlife refuges under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act and other acts having the same objective. The total acreage of all refuge lands acquired and being acquired on June 30, 1938, in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii, by Executive order and purchase aggregate 11,299,186 acres in 172 units. Some of the refuges so established were for reclamation purposes, but these few are of relatively small importance both from the standpoint of utility and from the standpoint of the acres embraced. No additions were made by purchase to any of the big-game refuges established by Executive order, principally in the Western States, with the exception of the Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge in southeastern Oregon, the Charles Sheldon Refuge in southwestern Nevada, the Elk Refuge in the Jackson Hole section of Wyoming, and the Federal Niobrara Reservation in north central Nebraska. In these four, however, extensive tracts of privately owned lands have been bought. Those in the Hart Mountain and Charles Sheldon Refuges were for the purpose of acquiring water holes and streams, so as to bring these refuges to their greatest possible utility. Purchases in the Elk Refuge were made principally to obtain an adequate food supply for the animals being protected during the winter months when they are in great concentrations in Jackson Hole. At Niobrara, a small area was acquired to consolidate the land already held.

FUNDS AVAILABLE

The appropriations authorized under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of February 18, 1929, for acquisition of lands, and the funds appropriated for the fiscal years 1930-38 are shown in table 1. The difference between the totals shows an unappropriated authorization of \$5,500,454 through the fiscal year 1938.

TABLE 1.—*Funds authorized and appropriated for migratory-bird refuges under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, fiscal years 1930-38*

Fiscal year	Authorized	Appropriated	Fiscal year	Authorized	Appropriated
1930.....	\$75,000	\$75,000	1936.....	\$1,000,000	\$67,500
1931.....	200,000	200,000	1937.....	1,000,000	79,753
1932.....	600,000	400,000	1938.....	1,000,000	79,753
1933.....	1,000,000	318,000	Total.....	6,875,000	1,374,546
1934.....	1,000,000	89,525			
1935.....	1,090,000	65,015			

As in the fiscal year 1937, no emergency funds were made available for the acquisition of refuge lands in 1938. There was allocated, however, for the purchase of tracts on existing refuges, a sum of \$75,000 from the proceeds of sales of migratory-bird hunting stamps. Part of the funds remaining in the \$6,000,000 appropriation provided under Title VII of the act of June 15, 1935, was also available for rounding out existing refuges. As previously also, the termination of cases as the result of judicial proceedings released funds that had been deposited in the courts during earlier years.

SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE PROGRAM

In tables 2 and 3 are set forth in detail the accomplishments in the acquisition of national wildlife refuges under the provisions (table 2) of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act and (table 3) through the allotments of emergency funds. To present a broader picture of the present status of the refuge system a summary is appended following table 3 that covers not only the lands acquired after approval by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission but also those acquired by purchase, condemnation, or gift (but not by easement) since the Biological Survey first had funds for the purpose. The summary thus covers areas on refuges specifically established by act of Congress, for example, the Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge and the Bear River (Utah) Migratory Bird Refuge. The discrepancy in acreage figures between the summary and tables 2 and 3 is explained by the fact that data in the tables are for the period since 1929, the year the Migratory Bird Conservation Act was approved, whereas the summary goes back to the beginning of refuge land purchases by the Biological Survey, and the reservation of public lands for the purpose by Executive order.

Present status of refuge system

Area approved for purchase by Commission to June 30, 1933	acres	139, 608
Average cost per acre	dollars	4. 57
Area approved for purchase by Commission July 1, 1933 to date	acres	725, 172
Average cost per acre	dollars	5. 32
Area approved for purchase by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the Resettlement Administration (Farm Security Administration)	acres	733, 799
Average cost per acre	dollars	7. 66
Area approved for purchase under all other funds	acres	191, 660
Average cost per acre	dollars	8. 00
Area acquired under Executive orders to June 30, 1933	acres	5, 467, 565
Area acquired under Executive orders, July 1, 1933, to date	do	4, 041, 381
Refuges existing prior to June 30, 1933	number	102
Refuges existing on June 30, 1938 ¹	do	167
Total area of all refuges ¹	acres	11, 299, 186

¹ Exclusive of easement refuges in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana.

TABLE 2.—*Lands for refuges acquired and in process of acquisition under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act program through June 30, 1938*

REPORT OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD COMMISSION, 1938

State and county	Refuge	Fiscal year 1938					Acquired in previous years beginning Feb. 18, 1925	
		Acquired by purchase	Pending title conveyance	Total	Acquired other than by purchase	Total	By purchase	Other than by purchase
		<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Alaska: Fourth Judicial Division	Hazen Bay					6,800		
Arizona: Apache	Apache					1 6,800		
Mohave	Boulder Canyon (see also Nevada)					2,514		
Arkansas: Arkansas, Desha, Monroe, and Phillips	White River					529		
California: Imperial	Salton Sea		529					1 312,047
Imperial	Tule Lake							2 719
Delaware: Modoc and Siskiyou							8,982	1 36,578
Kent	Bombay Hook	6,886	639	7,545			5,120	1 36,563
New Castle	Killcohook (see also New Jersey)							1 586
Florida: Levy	Cedar Keys							1 379
Hernando	Chinsegut Hill							2 2,033
Georgia: Jefferson, Taylor, and Wakulla	St. Marks	2,879	6,918	9,797	1 9,077	18,874	21,746	1 15,926
Charlton, Clinch, and Ware	Okefenokee		833	833	2 11	844	292,979	2 2
Chatham	Swannah River (see also South Carolina)	31		31		31	944	
Do	Tybee					1 100		
Idaho: McIntosh	Wolf Island							1 575
Jefferson	Camas	200	3,330	3,530			6,692	
Canyon	Deer Flat						73	
Blaine, Cassia, Minidoka, and Power	Minidoka							1 25,332
Bannock	Pocatello, U. S. Biological Survey Supply Depot	1		1			1	
Canyon	Snake River							
Iowa: Kossuth	Union Slough	430	231	661	1 336	336	200	
Louisiana: Plaquemines	Delta		4,584	4,584			29,965	1 4,335
Cameron	Lacassine	5,468	2,649	8,117	1 227	8,344	17	
Maine: Washington		10,610	10	10,620		10,620	684	
Knox	Moosehorn							3 12
Knox	Widows Island							

REPORT OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD COMMISSION, 1938

5

Maryland:	Blackwater	432	432	432	8,241	1 2,693
Dorchester	Patuxent					
Michigan:	Huron	196	37,364	37,560	64	1 836
Marquette	Sney				37,840	18,436
Minnesota:	Rice Lake		1,423	1,423	1,423	661
Atkin	Talcot Lake		2 885	885	885	2 80
Cottonwood	Tamarac	505	1,414	1,919	1,919	21,158
Becker	Upper Mississippi					1
Winona	Yazoo					2,440
Mississippi:	Squaw Creek					213
Missouri:	Swan Lake		2,900	2,900	2,900	2,450
Holt						
Charlton						
Montana:	Benton Lake					112,235
Cascade and Chouteau	Fort Keogh					156,334
Custer	Fort Peck					1970,000
Fergus, Garfield, McCone, Petroleum, Phillips and Valley	Hewitt Lake				1,400	110,671
Do	Lake Bowdoin					
Hill	Lake Thibodeau				1,192	1 301
Roosevelt and Sheridan	Medicine Lake				2 4	1 1,358
Beaverhead	Red Rock Lakes	231	771	1,002	1,002	40,608
Nebraska:	Crescent Lake					376
Garden	Niobrara					
Cherry						
Nevada:	Boulder Canyon (see also Arizona)					1 346,443
Clark	Charles Sheldon	17,509	5,304	22,813	22,813	1 2 559,235
Humboldt and Washoe	Desert Game					1 2,022,000
Clark and Lincoln	Fallon					1 17,801
Churchill	Railroad Valley					1 135,184
Nye	Ruby Lake	20,745	7,667	28,412	28,412	1 11,915
Elko and White Pine	Winemut					1 856
Pershing and Washoe	Killehook (see also Delaware)					
New Jersey: Salem	Bitter Lake	120	6,935	7,055	11,316	3,193
New Mexico:	Boques del Apache		2,926	2,926	2,926	52,843
Chavez	Rio Grande					173,228
Socorro						
Do						
New York:	Montezuma	2,564	3,656	6,220	6,220	8
Seneca	Shinnecock					
Suffolk						
North Carolina:	Lake Mattamuskeet					
Hyde	Pea Island	1,605	541	541	541	1,539
Dare	Swanquarter		2,702	4,307	36,561	15,493
Hyde						

³ Act of Congress.

⁴ Primarily for big game.

¹ Set aside by Executive order or proclamation.

² Gift.

Virginia: Princess Anne.....	Back Bay.....	3, 925	663	4, 589	14, 342	8, 931	.....
Washington: San Juan.....	Jones Island.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 170
Grant.....	Lenore Lake.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 6, 150
San Juan.....	Matia Island.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 145
Spokane.....	Turnbull.....	1, 925	4, 866	6, 791	.....	6, 791	5, 412
Pacific.....	Willapa Harbor.....	40	660	700	.....	700	1, 605
Wisconsin: Brown.....	Long Tail Point.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 626
Wyoming: Albany.....	Bamforth Lake.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 965
Teton.....	Elk Refuge ⁴	1, 557	641	2, 198	1 618	2, 816	9, 978
Albany.....	Hutton Lake.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 3, 165
Total.....	.....	132, 206	110, 389	242, 595	68, 535	311, 130	5, 007, 708

¹ Set aside by Executive order or proclamation.² Gift.³ Act of Congress.⁴ Primarily for big game.⁵ By session.

NOTE.—Discrepancies in entries and totals in this table and in similar tables reported by the Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey, for the same year, are explained by the recent receipt of more complete data on acreage.

TABLE 3.—*Lands for refuges acquired and in process of acquisition with emergency funds*

State and county	Refuge	Fiscal year 1938				Acquired during fiscal years 1932-37
		Acquired by purchase	Pending title conveyance	Total	Acres	
Alaska: Third judicial division	Chitina				Acres	1
Arkansas:						
Mississippi	Big Lake	1,212	6,715	7,927		442
Arkansas, Desha, Monroe, and Phillips	White River					94,213
California: Colusa and Glenn	Sacramento		1,181	1,181		10,776
Florida: Jefferson, Taylor, and Wakulla	St. Marks		1,462	1,462		9,473
Georgia: Chatham	Savannah River (see also South Carolina)		496	2,256		2,977
Illinois: Mason	Chautauqua	1,700				2,220
Louisiana:						
Flaqueminies	Delta		10,361	10,361		
Cameron	Lacassine	22,992	22,992	22,992		
Do	Sabine	138,987		138,987		
Michigan: Schoolcraft	Seney	11,735	3,043	14,778		13,962
Minnesota:						
Marshall	Mud Lake					
Arklin	Rice Lake	2,935	4,854	7,789		59,708
Missouri:						
Holt	Squaw Creek	365	126	485		5,951
Chariton	Swan Lake	3	180	183		5,158
Montana:						
Phillips	Lake Bowdoin	640		640		
Roosevelt and Sheridan	Yellowstone Lake		2,902	6,516		16,353
Lake and Sanders	National Bison Range	3,614				20
Beaverhead	Red Rock Lakes	590	8,503	9,093		15,208
Nebraska:						
Garden	Crescent Lake					1,847
Cherry	Niobrara		276			2,692
Do	Valentine	1,159		1,435		64,373
New York: Saratoga	U. S. Fur Animal Experiment Station					16
North Carolina:						
Hyde	Lake Mattamuskeet					49,925
Do	Swanquarter					8
North Dakota:						
Foster and Stutsman	Arrowwood	943	80	1,023		12,288
Burke and Ward	Des Lacs	837	608	1,445		12,290
Walsh	Lake Ardch					291
Burleigh and Kidder	Long Lake					586
Burke and Mountrail	Lostwood	480	1,209	1,689		21,404

Botlineau and McHenry	Lower Souris	803	2, 144	2, 947	30, 504
Sargent	Storm Lake				2
Do	Tewaukan				80
Ronville and Ward	Upper Souris	800	409	1, 218	28, 318
Oregon:					
Hurney	Malheur (Biltzon unit)				64, 717
Do	Malheur (Malheur unit)	141		141	6, 193
South Carolina:					
Charleston	Cape Roman				5, 106
Jasper	Savannah River (see also Georgia)	530		530	3, 519
South Dakota:					
Bennett	Lacreek				9, 362
Charles Mix	Lake Andes				342
Brown	Sand Lake	340	458	798	10, 077
Day	Waubay				2, 033
Tennessee: Lake and Obion	Lake Isom				1, 517
Texas: Bailey	Muleshoe		1, 517	1, 517	20
Utah: Box Elder	Bear River		1, 440	1, 440	2, 214
Wisconsin: Trempealeau	Trempealeau	3, 145		3, 145	
Total		194, 020	47, 958	241, 978	580, 506

NOTE.—Discrepancies in entries and totals in this table and in similar tables reported by the Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey, for the same year, are explained by the recent receipt of more complete data on acreage.



